

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USLO PEKING

USSAG NAKHON PHANOM

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 4 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. ALL REPORT ARRIVAL OF 14-BOAT CONVOY WITH TROOP REINFORCEMENTS, ARMS, AND AMMUNITION AT KOMPONG CHAM (NYT, SUN, WP, CHITRIB, WSJ, NYDN). CONVOY WAS CHEERED ON BY PEOPLE ALONG BANKS OF MEKONG WHO HAVEN'T SEEN ONE IN MORE THAN A YEAR (SUN). NEVERTHELESS, SITUATION BECOMING INCREASINGLY CRITICAL AS REBEL FORCES HAVE CUT ROAD TO AIRPORT (CHITRIB, WSJ). GOVERNMENT FORCES HAVE FAILED AGAIN TO REOPEN HIGHWAY 4 (NYT, WSJ).

2. LIPPMAN (WP) DESCRIBES HOW KHMER TROOPS HAVE TO FORAGE FOR FOOD BECAUSE THERE IS NO MILITARY FOOD SUPPLY SYSTEM TO SPEAK OF - WHICH RESULTS IN LOOTING AND LATE AFTERNOON DEFECTIONS BY HUNGRY SOLDIERS.

3. PRINCE SIHANOUK AND VC'S NGUYEN THO RECEIVE FULL HONORS ACCORDED CHIEFS OF STATE AT N.A.C. SUMMIT IN ALGIERS (WSJ, SUN).

4. SHIPLER (NYT), FROM VIENTIANE, REPORTS THAT PRC TROOPS STILL MANNING AA INSTALLATIONS ALONG ROAD THEY HAVE BUILT IN N. LAOS, BUT US EMBASSY AND RLG NOT DISTURBED. CHINESE INTEREST APPEARS TO BE PROTECTING WHAT THEY HAVE AS THEY OCCASIONALLY SHOOT DOWN AMERICAN PLANES STRAYING OVER ROAD AND HAVE NOT INVOLVED THEMSELVES IN COMBAT BETWEEN PL AND RLG FORCES. THE ROAD IS RESULT OF EARLY 1960'S PRC FOREIGN AID PROJECT WHICH MAY ULTIMATELY PROVE MORE BENEFICIAL TO CHINA.

5. WITH CONGRESS RETURNING, PROSPECTS ARE FOR FURTHER CONFRONTATIONS OVER PRESIDENTIAL WAR-MAKING POWERS (NYT'S MADDEN; WP'S RUSSELL). ANOTHER THORNY UNCLASSIFIED

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PROBLEM FOR PRESIDENT, RUSSELL ADDS, WILL BE APPROVAL FOR NVN RECONSTRUCTION AID. THOUGH NO FORMAL REQUEST HAS BEEN SENT CONGRESS, IT HAS "ALREADY EXPRESSED ITS DISAPPROVAL BY ADOPTING AMENDMENTS BARRING AID" FOR NVN TO SEVERAL BILLS THAT CONGRESS SUSPECTED PRESIDENT MIGHT USE FOR THAT PURPOSE EVEN THOUGH CONGRESS DIDN'T APPROVE.

JAPAN

6. DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF MITI'S ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT INDICATES AT TOKYO NEWS CONFERENCE THAT US ACTIONS THIS SUMMER IN RESTRICTING GRAIN AND SOYBEAN EXPORTS WILL BE USED BY JAPAN AND EEC AT

GATT MEETING TO OPPOSE US PROPOSALS FOR LIBERALIZATION OF TRADE IN FARM PRODUCTS (UPI WP, NYT).

7. JOC'S LAWRENCE SAYS "POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE" JAPANESE TRADE QUESTIONS INVOLVING BALL BEARINGS AND TV SETS COULD IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER AFFECT TRADE BILL ACTION IN CONGRESS AND POSSIBLY INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS. BILANOW (JOC) REPORTS US OFFICIALS' DISCLOSURE THAT US AND JAPAN ARE NEARING AGREEMENT ON CARGO DATA INTERCHANGE SYSTEM COVERING AIR AND OCEAN TRADE.

CHINA

8. NCNA ANNOUNCES THAT WIFE OF PRC CHARGE IN ZAMBIA DIED AT CHINESE EMBASSY IN LUSAKA AUG. 18 WHEN "BOMB DESPICABLY PLANTED BY THE ENEMY IN THE MAIL" EXPLODED (AP, PHINQ).

9. WP'S HARNER FINDS TAIWAN AN "ELECTRONICS HAVEN." SINCE 1953, \$168 MILLION HAS BEEN INVESTED BY US FIRMS IN ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY IN TAIWAN. MOST OF ELECTRONICS PROFITS COME FROM TRADE WITH US, AND MOST MADE IN LAST FEW YEARS. MEANWHILE, JAPANESE FIRMS ALSO ARE PRODUCING TVS AND RADIOS FOR US MARKET IN TAIWAN.

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KOREA

10. IN SEOUL, SUN'S PEPPER SEES ROK, "SLOWLY AND QUIETLY," TRYING TO REACH SETTLEMENT WITH JAPAN OVER KIM DAE JUNG INCIDENT -- WITH TERMS OF SETTLEMENT REMAINING TO BE FIXED. PEPPER REPORTS ROK OFFICIALS HAVE PRIVATELY HINTED THAT KIM WILL BE ALLOWED RETURN TO JAPAN TEMPORARILY, AND WILL NOT BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL FOR HIS ATTACKS ON PARK.

11. NK CHARGES THAT US TRANSFER OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT FROM THAILAND TO JAPAN SERVES TO REINFORCE ROKG WITH JAPAN AS FORWARD BASE AND IS ATTEMPT TO INSTIGATE "KOREANS TO FIGHT KOREANS" (REUTER, CHITRIB).

FRANCE'S S. PACIFIC A-TESTS

12. PAPEETE POLITICAL SOURCES SAY FRENCH PACIFIC NAVAL SQUADRON HAS BEEN PUT ON ALERT TO SAIL BACK TO MURUROA ATOLL AT MOMENT'S NOTICE FOR POSSIBLE NEW ATOMIC TESTS. INDICATE GOF MAY DETONATE TWO MORE NUCLEAR WARHEADS, AND THIS MAY CONCLUDE THIS YEAR'S SERIES (UPI, NYDN).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

13. GLOBE AND MAIL'S BURNS (WP) IN PEKING DESCRIBES NEW CP CONSTITUTION AS BEING SIMILAR IN MOST ESSENTIALS TO THE LAST ONE, BUT NOTES CERTAIN DIFFERENCES. NEW CONSTITUTION ENCOURAGES CRITICISM FROM BELOW, INSCRIBES NEED FOR MORE CULTURAL REVOLUTIONS, OMITTS SEVERAL LAUDATORY REFERENCES TO CHAIRMAN MAO, DELETES ALL REFERENCE TO LIN PIAO, NAMES NO NEW SUCCESSOR TO MAO BUT STRESSES NEED TO TRAIN "MILLIONS OF SUCCESSORS" TO ENSURE THAT THE CAUSE OF REVOLUTION WILL BE UPHELD FOREVER, AND EMPHASIZES NEED TO ACCEPT MORE MEMBERS OF CURRENTLY UNREPRESENTED GROUPS IN POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY AT ALL LEVELS. NEW CONSTITUTION ALSO DEMANDS OBEDIENCE OF ALL PARTY UNITS TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND FORBIDS ATTEMPTS TO REPLACE AUTHORITY OF PARTY COMMITTEES WITH AD
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HOC GROUPS DRAWN FROM ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE CONSTITUTIONALLY SUBORDINATE TO PARTY. FEATURE BOUND TO ATTRACT WIDEST PUBLIC ATTENTION IS ONE CONCERNING MORE CULTURAL REVOLUTIONS, WHICH MAO SAYS WILL BE NEEDED EVERY SEVEN OR EIGHT YEARS, AND WHICH WANG HUNG-WEN STRESSED IN REMARKS ABOUT NEW CONSTITUTION. CITES OBSERVERS AS INTERPRETING WANG'S EMPHASIS ON THIS SUBJECT AS WARNING TO OFFICIALS THAT THEY SHOULD NOT FORGET THE LESSONS OF THE GPCR DURING THE INTERREGNUM BETWEEN IT AND THE NEXT MASS REBELLION AGAINST AUTHORITY.

14. WP REGARDS AS "ASTONISHING" CHOU'S 10TH CP CONGRESS REPORT WHICH WARNED AGAINST "SURPRISE ATTACK", PARTICULARLY FROM THE USSR, AND INTERNAL POLITICAL INTRIGUE, NOTING, FOR EXAMPLE, CHOU'S CHARGE THAT LIN PIAO HAD ACTUALLY "LAUNCHED" AN "ARMED COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY COUP" IN 1971. OBSERVES ALSO THAT IN CONTRAST TO POLEMICS AGAINST USSR, THOSE AGAINST THE WEST SEEMED "PERFUNCTORY." IT IS DIFFICULT TO TELL WHETHER CHOU'S REPORT REPRESENTS A STATE OF MIND, A TACTICAL POSE OR A STATEMENT OF OMINOUS REALITY - OR SOME COMBINATION OF THESE. WE MUST ACCEPT, HOWEVER, THE UNSETTLING FACT THAT, WITHIN CHINA AND BETWEEN CHINA AND RUSSIA, GREAT TENSIONS EXIST WHICH COULD LEAD TO TRAUMATIC WORLD DEVELOPMENTS. THE GLOBAL STRUCTURE OF PEACE, WHOSE BUILDING IS MR. NIXON'S MOST CHERISHED ASPIRATION, IS STILL FAR FROM BEING SOLIDLY PLACED.

15. CSM'S SCHMIDT NOTES ANNOUNCED WITHDRAWAL OF A WING C-130'S FROM TAIWAN AND COMPLETION LAST WEEK

OF WITHDRAWAL OF MARINE BOMBER UNITS FROM THAILAND.
SAYS NEW POST-VN PATTERN OF US POWER IN PACIFIC
AND SEA IS TAKING SHAPE WHICH PLACES EMPHASIS ON
DETENTE WITH PRC AND THE USSR AND CAPABILITIES
OF ITS ALLIES IN THE AREA. CITES OFFICERS AT POLICY-
MAKING LEVELS IN WASHINGTON AS SAYING FUTURE RE-
DEPLOYMENT TARGETS WILL BE REMAINING MILITARY FORCES
IN THAILAND, KOREA, AND OKINAWA. ALSO CITES INFORMED
PENTAGON SOURCES AS FEELING THAT THE TIME HAS COME
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WHEN THE JAPANESE MUST CARRY A LARGER PART OF THE
MILITARY BURDEN, SHORT OF GOING NUCLEAR.

16. SUN'S MICHAEL PARKS IN MOSCOW SEES IN GROWING
BARRAGE OF ATTACKS FROM MOSCOW AND EE CAPITALS,
INDICATIONS THAT THE KREMLIN WILL GATHER ITS IDEOLOGICAL
ALLIES IN MOSCOW IN ABOUT A YEAR TO PROCLAIM CHINA
A TRAITOR TO COMMUNISM. CAMPAIGN HAS DRAWN PROTESTS
PRINCIPALLY FROM ROMANIA, NORTH KOREA AND NORTH VIETNAM.

17. SUN REFERSTO RECENT INDICATIONS OF FRICTION
BETWEEN KI AND NVN REGULARS AND OBSERVES THAT CAMBODIANS
HISTORICALLY DO NOT LIKE THE VIETNAMESE, WHO, UNDER
ONE LEADERSHIP OR ANOTHER HAVE CAST COVETOUS EYES
ON CAMBODIA AND THREATENED THAT ONCE-GENTLE COUNTRY'S
PEACE.

18. CHICAGO SUN-TIMES (AUG. 27), RECALLING THAT
SEATO WAS CREATED IN RESPONSE TO WHAT DULLES SAW
AS A MENACE OF CHINESE MILITARY EXPANSIONISM, SAYS
SEATO CONSTITUTES A CONTINUING INSULT TO THE PRC
WITH WHICH THE ADMINISTRATION SEEKS TO DEVELOP
NORMAL RELATIONS. EVEN ON ITS OWN TERMS, SEATO
IS REDUNDANT, SINCE WITH EXCEPTION OF THAILAND,
ALL OTHER MEMBERS HAVE MUTUAL SECURITY PACTS WITH
THE US. NOTES THAT 7 YEARS AGO "PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRANT"
NIXON CALLED IT "A SOMEWHAT ANACHRONISTIC RELIC".
AND WITH ITS POTENTIAL FOR INVOLVING THE US IN
MILITARY CONFLICT, THE ORGANIZATION IS PARTICULARLY
REPUGNANT TO A WAR-WEARY US PUBLIC. S-T SAYS SEATO
IS NOT AN APPROPRIATE VEHICLE FOR SERIOUS COOPERATIVE
ENDEAVORS IN ECON AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.
IT WOULD BE IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST TO LET IT
DIE, ALONG WITH THE OLD FEARS AND OUTDATED DOCTRINES
THAT GAVE IT BIRTH.

19. WSJ'S PETER KANN IN MAKATI WRITES LENGTHY
FEATURE ABOUT NEMESIO YABUT, MAYOR OF OPULENT MAKATI
CITY, WHO WAS RAISED IN THE SLUMS, MADE HIS MILLIONS,
AND IN HIS PATERNALISTIC WAY, HELPS THE POOR.
A LOYAL MARCOS SUPPORTER AND TOUGH GUY, WHO OPERATES

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AROUND TOWN IN A MANNER REMINISCENT OF A TWO-GUN
FIORELLO LA GUARDIA.

20. ARTHUR SCHLESINGER, JR. (NYT) EXAMINES HOUSE
AND SENATE WAR POWERS BILLS AND CONSIDERS FORMER
BETTER. SAYS, AFTER VN, IT IS HARD TO SEE WHY
ANY FUTURE PRES SHOULD EVER WISH TO GO TO WAR WITHOUT
CONGRESS BEHIND HIM; AND IF HAK REALLY INTENDS
TO "OPEN UP" US FOREIGN POLICY, HE MIGHT WELL BEGIN
BY WORKING WITH CONGRESS ON QUESTION OF WAR POWERS.

21. NYT'S BUTTERFIELD IN SAIGON REPORTS SENTENCING
BY MILITARY COURT OF THREE DISSIDENT LABOR LEADERS
TO 18 MONTHS IN JAIL ON CHARGES OF PARTICIPATING
IN COMMIE PLOT TO SUBVERT SAIGON LABOR MOVEMENT.
PHAM VAN HI, ACCUSED OF BEING RING-LEADER, DIED
IN PRISON LAST APRIL SHORTLY AFTER THE FOUR WERE
ARRESTED. INFORMED VIET SOURCES SAY HI WAS
TORTURED TO DEATH, THOUGH GVN SPOKESMEN INSISTED
HE COMMITTED SUICIDE AFTER CONFESSING TO BEING
COMMIE AGENT. LIGHT SENTENCES WIDELY REGARDED
AS GVN ATTEMPT TO MAKE THE BEST OF WHAT HAS BECOME
AN EMBARRASSING SITUATION. ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGEABLE
VIETNAMESE, THE FOUR WERE ARRESTED AS PART OF A
SAIGON POLICE OVERREACTION TO FEARS THAT COMMIES
WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF C-F TO STIR UNREST AMONG
WORKERS AND STUDENTS. WHEN ARRESTS WERE PUBLICIZED
AND SEVERAL VISITING US LABOR LEADERS PROTESTED,
GVN REPORTEDLY SOUGHT FACE-SAVING WAY OUT. GVN'S
PREDICAMENT FURTHER COMPLICATED BY RECENT CONTROVERSY
OVER ITS HANDLING OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. MOREOVER,
IF GVN OPENLY ACCUSED LABOR LEADERS OF BEING COMMIES,
IT WOULD BE COMPELLED UNDER PARIS AGREEMENT ON
PRISONER EXCHANGES TO RELEASE THEM TO VC. OBSERVED
THAT PRESIDING JUDGES IN MILITARY STOPPED SHORT
OF LABELLING DEFENDANTS AS COMMIES, BUT CHARGED
THEM ONLY WITH "ACTING AS ACCOMPLICES TO WRONGDOERS."

RUSH

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